

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

4:18-CR-3086

vs.

SHANNON MICHELLE GILLISPIE,

Defendant.

TENTATIVE FINDINGS

The Court has received the revised presentence investigation report in this case. The defendant has objected to the presentence report ([filing 76](#)).

IT IS ORDERED:

1. The Court will consult and follow the Federal Sentencing Guidelines to the extent permitted and required by *United States v. Booker*, 543 U.S. 220 (2005) and subsequent cases. In this regard, the Court gives notice that, unless otherwise ordered, it will:
 - (a) give the advisory Guidelines respectful consideration within the context of each individual case and will filter the Guidelines' advice through the 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) factors, but will not afford the Guidelines any particular or "substantial" weight;
 - (b) resolve all factual disputes relevant to sentencing by the greater weight of the evidence and without the aid of a jury;

- (c) impose upon the United States the burden of proof on all Guidelines enhancements;
 - (d) impose upon the defendant the burden of proof on all Guidelines mitigators;
 - (e) depart from the advisory Guidelines, if appropriate, using pre-*Booker* departure theory; and
 - (f) in cases where a departure using pre-*Booker* departure theory is not warranted, deviate or vary from the Guidelines when there is a principled reason justifying a sentence different than that called for by application of the advisory Guidelines, again without affording the Guidelines any particular or "substantial" weight.
2. There are no motions that require resolution at sentencing. The defendant has objected to the presentence report. [Filing 76](#). The defendant's objection, however, is not that the presentence report has misapplied the Guidelines in some way—rather, she argues she is entitled to a two-level safety valve reduction pursuant to the [First Step Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-391, 132 Stat. 5194 \(2018\)](#).

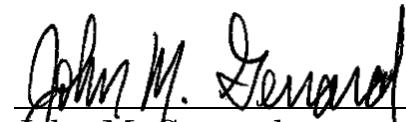
That argument is misplaced in the context of an objection to the presentence report. After all, the defendant has not shown that the presentence report's calculation of the Guidelines range is incorrect as the Guidelines are currently written. Instead, the Court will consider the First Step Act in determining whether a corresponding downward variance is appropriate (as the presentence report recommends). Although the Court will make a

final determination on this matter at sentencing, the parties are advised that the Court is likely to grant such a variance.

3. Except to the extent, if any, that the Court has sustained an objection, granted a motion, or reserved an issue for later resolution in the preceding paragraph, the parties are notified that the Court's tentative findings are that the presentence report is correct in all respects.
4. If any party wishes to challenge these tentative findings, that party shall, as soon as possible (but in any event no later than three (3) business days before sentencing) file with the Court and serve upon opposing counsel an objection challenging these tentative findings, supported by a brief as to the law and such evidentiary materials as are required, giving due regard to the local rules of practice governing the submission of evidentiary materials. If an evidentiary hearing is requested, such filings should include a statement describing why a hearing is necessary and how long such a hearing would take.
5. Absent timely submission of the information required by the preceding paragraph, the Court's tentative findings may become final and the presentence report may be relied upon by the Court without more.
6. Unless otherwise ordered, any objection challenging these tentative findings shall be resolved at sentencing.

Dated this 29th day of July, 2019.

BY THE COURT:


John M. Gerrard
Chief United States District Judge
